

Veterans and Korean War Veterans Memorials, U.S. Military Installations, national cemeteries, and other locations across our country. The flag is a reminder of our continued commitment to those brave patriots imprisoned while serving in conflicts around the world and of our pledge to continue to achieve the fullest possible accounting for all our men and women in uniform who are still missing. Americans are blessed with the freedom made possible by the service and sacrifice of so many. On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, our entire Nation honors and pays special tribute to our prisoners of war and those who remain missing.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 16, 2005, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in saluting all American POWs and those missing in action who valiantly served our country. I call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 19, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 20.

Proclamation 7931—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2005
September 16, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, America has been a land of diversity and has benefitted from the contributions of people of different backgrounds brought together by a love of liberty.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the achievements of Hispanic Americans and the significant role they have played in making our Nation strong, prosperous, and free.

The contributions of Hispanic Americans have made a positive impact on every part of our society. Americans of Hispanic descent are astronauts and athletes, doctors and teachers, lawyers and scientists. The vibrancy of our Nation's Hispanic performers enriches music, dancing, and the arts. Hispanic Americans serve at every level of government, including as Attorney General of the United States and Secretary of Commerce. Latino entrepreneurs are starting and growing businesses all across America, creating jobs and opportunities. The hard work and determination of Hispanic Americans continue to inspire all those who dream of a better life for themselves and their families.

Our Nation's Hispanic community has contributed to the advance of freedom abroad and to the defense of freedom at home. In every generation, Hispanic Americans have served valiantly in the United States military. Today there are more than 200,000 Hispanic Americans serving in the Armed Forces, and our Nation is grateful for their courage and sacrifice. In addition, thousands of Hispanic Americans are helping to defend and protect our homeland by serving as police officers and firefighters. All Americans are thankful for their daily work in helping to keep our Nation safe.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we join together to recognize the proud history and rich culture of Hispanic Americans. To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2005, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the

United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 20, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 21.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 10

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine. He then had an intelligence briefing and a briefing on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

The President declared an emergency in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance

to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in South Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

September 11

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to St. John's Episcopal Church where they attended a prayer and remembrance service to commemorate the anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. They then returned to the White